(t) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Only these Air Taxi Operators who are allowed to be converted into scheduled air transport operators will have to follow guidelines issued on 1.3.1994 for operations to different regions of the country. 30th April, 1994 was the last date for submission of application seeking permission to operate scheduled air transport services.

(c) All scheduled operators are required to provide prescribed level of services to different regions of the country including North East, J&K and Lakshadweep islands etc. Seven Air Taxi operators have alrealy applied for grant of scheduled air transpoter's permit.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration, at present.

(e) Does not arise.

Manufacture of Defence equipment by SSI units

5894. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared a plan to involve SSI units in the manufacture of defence equipment and spare;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the response of SSI units to the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) To further enhance participation of small scale industry in indigenisation of defence stores Supply Wing of the Department of Defence Production and Supplies is undertaking a programme of inter-action with entrepreneurs, particularly those technically qualified. Three day meets have been held at Delhi, Jabalpur, Ludhiana, Coimbatore, Bangalore and Pune at each of which about a thousanl items have been displayed alongwith techno-commercial details and the entrepreneurs have been advised regarding the procedures for their participation. Such meets are programmed to be held also at Calcutta, Kanpur and Rajkot. Representatives of Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, banks and financial institutions have been involved in the meets. The meets have attracted enthusiatic participation of about 250 entrepreneurs at each place. It is expected that these will result in the participation of many small scale entrepreneures in indigenous production of defence stores.

Firing rocket by Pak trained militants

5895. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pak-trained militants have started firing by rockets powered by solar batteries and fitted with time bombs on border areas of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the number of such attacks during the last six months;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these rockets were found tied to the trees inside Indian territory within 2 or 3 Km from line of control; and

(d) the details of counter measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) In the recent past Pak trained militants have been firing disposable rockets in areas near the line of control some of which may have been activated by solar batteries.

(b) A total of 102 rockets were fired by the militants during the last six months from across the LOC and 14 rockets were fired from inside Indian territory near the LOC. As these rockets got destroyed after exploding on impact, it is not possible to confirm if they were fitted with solar batteries. However, some unfired rockets recovered by Indian troops during search on our side of the LOC were found to be fitted with solar batteries.

(c) One of the methods of aiming these rockets is by tying them on trees. Some rockets appear to have been fired by tying them on trees.

(d) Approprivate measures were taken by Indian troops to counter the menace of rocket firing, which has since come down appreciably.

पाकिस्तान द्वारा गोलाबारी करने की घटनायें

5896. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत तीन महीनों के दौरान पाकिस्तान द्वारा हमारी सीमाओं पर गोलाबारी की कितनी घटनाएं हुई हैं और इनमें कितने लोग हताहत हुए हैं, और

(ख) क्या भारतीय सीमा क्षेत्र में सभी सुरक्षा प्रबंध कर लिए गए हैं ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) जनवरी से मार्च, 1994 के दौरान पाकिस्तान के साथ नियंत्रण रेखा/अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा पर गोलाबारी की 554 घटनाएं हुई। इनमें छः सिविलियन घायल हुए । इनमें हमारे कितने सैनिक हताहत हुए इस संबंध में ब्यौरा प्रकट करना वांछनीय नहीं होगा।

(ख) सरकार हमारी सुरक्षा को प्रभावित करने वाली सभी घटनाओं पर कड़ी नजर रखती है और इस संबंध में पूरी रक्षा तैयारी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए आवश्यक कदम उठाती है।

Defence cooperation with France

5897. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 18th February, 1994 to the effect that France wants better ties with India;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed; and

(c) if so, what is the extent to which India and France have agreed to improve defence cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Defence Cooperation with France is an ongoing process. A Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation had been signed in January, 1982. No new agreement has been signed in this regard at present.

Firing of rockets by Pak troops

5898. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistani troops fired rockets fitted with solar bombs in the month of March, 1994 in Poonch sector of Indo-Pak border on the Indian side;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and